

Attorney docket OHG 142

REMARKS

In response to the official action:

Drawing. The Examiner objected to the drawing on the basis that the "thin oxidation layer" in claim 5 is not illustrated. This objection is respectfully traversed.

In devices of this type, the spacing of the posts 46 is of the order of a fraction of a millimeter (page 3, line 25; page 4, line 16) and therefore the thickness of the posts 46 is of the order of 0.1 mm, while the oxidation layer is believed to be much thinner than that. The Applicant respectfully suggests that the thin oxidation layer would be impractical to illustrate as a separate part, because it would be thinner than the thinnest ink line on the paper. The Applicant sees the situation as analogous to a drawing of a painted refrigerator, where the paint is so thin that it does not change the shape or appearance and therefore needs no separate illustration, only a description combined with illustration of the part that has the thin coating.

35 USC §113 states that a drawing is needed "where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter." The Applicant respectfully submits that a person skilled in the art would understand the claimed thin coating from page 41, line 6, even without a reference numeral.

The Applicant respectfully believes that the illustration does sufficiently illustrate the thin oxidation layer, and also believes that no separate reference numeral is needed.

However, if the Examiner thinks it proper, then the Applicant will add a new reference numeral and lead line to indicate the oxidation layer in Figs. 2(A) and 2(B). The Applicant suggests "46a" and a lead line to the outside of the posts labeled 46, as referred to in the specification.

§102. This rejection is moot in view of the present amendment. The rejected claims all depend from an allowable claim.

§103. This rejection is moot in view of the present amendment. The rejected claim depends from an allowable claim.

AMENDMENT

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The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which is requested.

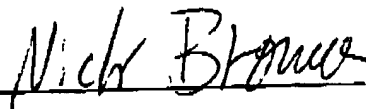
Respectfully submitted,

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Date


Nick Bromer (Reg. No. 33,478)
(717) 426-1664
RABIN & BERDO, P.C.
CUSTOMER NO. 23995
Telephone: (202) 371-8976
Telefax : (202) 408-0924

I certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (fax no. 703-872-9306) on July 22, 2005.

Nick Bromer [reg. no. 33,478]

Signature 

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